Mrs. *JAMES*'s

DEFENCE

OF THE

Church of England,

IN A SHORT

ANSWER

TO THE

Canting Addreſs, &c.

With a Word or Two Concerning a

Quakers Good Advice

TO THE

Church of England,

Roman Catholick, and *Proteſtant Diſſenter.*

I find thoſe that Vilifies the CHURCH Prints with Allowance *and without, therefore I that Vindicate Her need not any; for the LAWS were made to Defend the CHURCH and GOVERNMENT, and why ſhould any one think to Abuſe Her. Surely it cannot be Unlawful to* Vindicate Her.

Printed for me *Elinor James*, 1687.

I have been blam'd for giving ſo much, and therefore Price 1 d.

BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

A Short Answer to the Canting Address of Thanks, *&c.*

Mr. *Larkin*,

I Am very sorry that you should Print such a Scurrilous Paper against me, because I never did you any Injury in Thought, Word, or Deed, and it seems to be Unkind (you being a *Printer*) for I have always had a Tender Regard for *Printers* (for my Husbands sake) but now you well Reward me; but if you can Abuse the King and His Government, and Sir *Roger* (who hath lately been so Kind to you) well may you (for your Interest) *Lampoon* upon me; but I'll spare you for this time, for the World knows what a great Enemy you have been to the King and Kingdom, and tho you have suffered for it, yet I find you are not changed, but is as Malicious against the Government as ever. The *Roman Catholicks* boast, That they would not Abuse me in any Thing, for all I have Printed so many Papers against them: I must needs say, The most part of them hath been very Civil; therefore you are Worse than they: Tho the Innocent Dissenters thinks that none of their Party would be guilty of any such Thing, as to Abuse me; they are much deceived, for I am very well satisfied it was a Dissenter; but however, I accept of their Excuse: *I* will not Think Amiss of those that are Innocent for the Guilty; for if they do well, they will be accepted, and for the Spiteful and Malicious, they shall be Rewarded accordingly; for God is Just, and will give to every one according to their Deserts.

And for the Author, he says, *The Sons of his Church are out of humour.* What is your Church? It is not the Church of *England* that you own; therefore all that you say is Truth; for there was no Prince in the World could ever please you: for it is impossible that such as you can be pleas'd; for Magistrates may know where they begin, but they shall never know where to end: And if my Words hath operated upon you, surely it is a great Wonder (for it was more than all the Wise Men in the Kingdom could do) for your Hearts are so Envious against Kingly Authority, that you can neither Thank God nor the King for any thing that you do receive: For your Ambition is so great, that nothing but a Throne will Content you; so that it is not *Liberty of Conscience* will satisfie you, and therefore *You would Remove Principalities and Powers, that you might come into Government your selves*, and so you may shake hands with the *Quakers*, for you can make Reflections upon the Spirit. And as for the Church, She needs no *God-mother*, for She is under the Protection of the Most High: And

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for my *Fasting*, *it was not to Devour Widows houses*: And as for your *Reflection on the Clergy*: It is the common Policy of the Devil, for he always Shoots at the Greatest Champions. You say, *Our Church is the only Church for Loyalty*, and so it is, and there is none but Devils and Vipers that says to the contrary. *You talk of my Lightness*; but I never was so Light as to Dishonour my Husband, or Defile my Bed; and in this Excellent Qualification, I may Weigh all such as you Down. You say, *We are Good Subjects and Admirers of Prerogative as long as we are Pleas'd*: And so We are; and when were we out of Humour, so as to deny our Loyalty, or the Interest of our Prince? And who can lay Rebellion to our Charge? And as for *Non-resistance*, who hath so much despised it as you? For your Party did condemn the *Church of England* for a Foolish Church, because She Taught *Non-resistance*. You say, *It is baldness in me to Condemn your Loyalty*. I do not question, but there is Innocent Souls amongst you, that I do not speak too, but it is such Snakes and Vipers as you, that would Destroy the Interest of all Christianity: But since you are are so Angry, Pray tell me in what your Loyalty consists; *is it in* plucking down Churches, and Destroying of Loyalty under the Notion of Popery? But now I see you are for Promoting it; for you are beholding to them for giving you Authority to Print your Paper; and so you are obliged to Gratifie them with some Good Services. Therefore such as you are the *Disturbers of Government*, *Destructive to Princes*, *by Misrepresenting them to the People*, *filling them full of Fears and Jealousies*, and for that Cause the Laws were made for such as you; and I think it is enough that you have *Liberty of Conscience*, and not to have the King Gratifie you with His *Laws*: Are you so Fearful that you cannot Trust His Majesty? Is your Deeds so Evil, that you are afraid of the *Laws*? Surely I thought you would have Liv'd so Holy now, that no *Law* could touch you; but I see you have your Old Nature upon you, that nothing will Oblige you: *And as for the death of Three thousand Persons*; what is that to the Destruction of Three Kingdoms and the best of Princes? But the Destruction of those shall lie at the Doors of them that Perverted them: And if God was pleas'd to call you into the Bosome of His Church, that His House might be full, you had no Reason to Resist it, for it was not to Pray to Sticks nor Stones, but to come to God through the Merits of Christ, without which none can be Sav'd. Therefore there is none but bad Men that will be Enemies to the *Church of England*; and I count them Enemies to the King and Kingdom that is for the Abrogating of the *Laws*. Your Old Proverb, of *Reserving the Rod for the Back of Fools*, You think to

be counted Wise by destroying them. *Doth this become the* True Blew Protestants *that were so Zealous for Religion*? But all this will not do, for we will not Trust you, for the King hath graciously given you Liberty to Serve God, and not to Destroy the Church of *England*, nor to Afflict Her, for the King will not Allow any of you to Abuse Her, nor She to meddle with you; but if you do Abuse Her, you must not think but some or other will Vindicate Her. So I would intreat you to be Quiet, and keep your Addresses unto your self, and let me alone, for I do not Love to be Disturb'd with Controversies, but Wish you the *Grace of Repentance*. So I rest, *ELINOR JAMES.*

A Word or Two to the Quakers Good Advice *to the* Church *of* England, Roman Catholick, *and* Protestant Dissenter.

YOu say, *It is no Matter who you are*, and you say, *You are an* English Man; Is that any Argument that you are a Good Man? Who was it that Disturb'd Three Kingdoms and Destroy'd the Best of Princes? Were they not *English*? You say, *You are Obliged to this Countrey, and the Laws hath made you Free*; but it is a clear Mistake, for you are in Bondage and Darkness, and are afraid of the Light, and therefore your Intentions are Evil; for if your Designs were Good, you need not be Ashamed to put your Name to the Book, (and then we should have known who this Singular Friend was; but I find you are a Subtle Adversary, that would Wound us, and none should know it; and I see you have more Policy than Honesty: And therefore your Considerations signifies nothing; *and we will not be Perswaded by such Hypocritical Canters as you are*, for you Quote the Scripture for your own Ends, as the Devil did to my Blessed Saviour, when He was an Hungry, as to *command the Stones to be made Bread*, and then he would *Believe he was the Son of God*; but Christ did not satisfie the Devil, neither (I hope in God) will the King or the Church you: What Aileth you, that you are so Disturb'd? If you do Well, what Law can Hurt you? But I find you are a *Great Thief*, and intends to Steal, and therefore you would have the Doors set open, that it might be counted no Robbery. I know your Designs well enough, and what you Aim at, and though you may Deceive others with your fair Pretences, yet (I hope in God) you shall not Deceive me, I know you can make your Self like an Angel, with Specious Pretendes to Deceive the Innocent, and you know the way very well, for you are highly Guilty of such Crimes; and I find you are an *Uncircumcised*

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Goliah, for I have found you a Deceiver, for you told me, You would be a Friend to the Church of *England*, and give Her the Right Hand of Fellowship; but yet the Lord Deliver Her, for none hath Deluded the Churches Children so much as you; for you are like the Devil to Tempt those that go to the Temple, but it was no more than what he did, when he Tempted my Blessed Saviour, and said unto Him, *If thou be the Son of God, cast thy self down, for it is written, he shall give his Angels Charge concerning thee, and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.* See what sweet Words the Devil can use for his own Purpose; Can Mr. *Penn* or any Mortal out-do him? And yet Satan knew at the same time, that if Christ had yielded, He could not have been the Son of God, for it would have destroyed His Intentions; for if He had yielded Obedience to him, how could He have Conquered him? Therefore pray rest Contented, and let the Church of *England* alone, for She meddles with none of you first, but 'till you provoke Her; but you think to Rend and Tear Her, and set up your selves by it; for it is Honour you aim at, and that is the Principle that moves you; and therefore (as you say) *You regard not Times nor Fashions, it is neither Thinking nor Talking*, but you would fain come into Action, to fling down the *Penal Laws* that *You may come into Government, and fling down others to set up Your Selves, and to be Members in Parliament*, then we shall have Fine Doings; but (I hope in God) it shall never come to that. *But for your Three sorts of People that will find themselves Concern'd in this Question*, you say, *the* Church *of England*, *the* Roman Catholicks, *and the* Protestant Dissenters. As for the Church She doth not fear the *Penal Laws* nor Distrust Her Prince, for She intends to do no Ill Thing, but to Fear God and Honour the King: And as for *Roman Catholicks*, they would be very disingenious if they should doubt the Kings Fidelity; And the *Protestant Dissenters* seems to be very well pleased, and is Contented, and says, They will not misimploy His Majesties Favour, but hopes they shall do Good, and redeem the Time that is past; and indeed if they do as they say, I shall be very much their Friend, for I am a Lover of Peace and Unity, and desires that all should do Well, and you may assure your self, they will never be for the Abrogating of the *Test*; for it was them of their own Nature that did it, and for the honour of them they will never disanul it; for you must not think to Fool them, as you do us. Therefore I would have you Study to be Quiet, and do not Deceive the People by your fair Pretences; for have you not declar'd to the World, That you are an Innocent, Harmless People, and did not concern your selves with any thing of Government more or less? But I find you to

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be great Liars, and Vipers and Snakes, that would destroy the whole. And what have you to do with the Whole Body of the Kingdom? We are not to yield Obedience to you; You say, *If it appears to be their Duty, Principles, and Interest, the Question is gain'd*: Ay, that is true, but stay till that is made out; for I am sure it is not their Duty, Principle, nor Interest, and therefore the Question is lost, and you your self Mistaken: And for your *Great Inclination to serve them all*, there is none desires it, and therefore their Good Nature cannot plead your Excuse. You say, *You are neither mov'd by Hopes nor Fears, private Loss nor Gain*: But who shall believe you, for you have been a great Enemy for these several Years, and nothing will content you but our Ruin. And since *Liberty of Conscience* cannot content you without taking away the *Test* and the *Penal Laws*, it makes me to think that you have some Design under-hand more than the World knows of: Therefore I count you a Person not fit to be Trusted, for the King hath been so Gracious, that He hath given *Liberty of Conscience* Freely! But you say, *The Penal Laws binds you from coming into Action*: Therefore the *Laws* must be taken away to Humour you! Yes: For what Cause? That the King should lessen Himself for you? And if you will not Trust His Majesty with the *Laws*, why should the King trust you Without them? If you do Well, there is no Law can hurt you, but if you do Ill, why should not the King and the Church have Power to Help themselves? For They are not to be Divided, no more than a Man should be from his Wife; For the King is to Defend the Church, and to keep all in Peace, and therefore you are Mistaken, it was not the Church that Compell'd you, but it was the Civil Magistrate, for the Peace of the Kingdom, thinking it was the best way to Preserve the Government: For they did not Force Conscience, when His Majesty gave Liberty to Four or Five to Exercise, but when that would not do, but said, They wanted a Prince and Governour whom they could Trust, I think it was high Time for the late King to look about Him; and for that which happened, you may Thank your selves, for you have been the sole Cause of it: For do you think that it would have been Reasonable for the Church of *England*, when the late King desired Her Assistance, that She should have refused it? No, no, such Treachery doth not Lodge in Her Breast; and therefore She needs not Repent of what She hath done, for She hath done no more than Her Duty. You say, *No Man ought to be depriv'd of his Native Right*: And who doth it? For some Complained, That the Government lay too heavy upon them,

them, but it was you that refus'd it, becauſe you would not have the Trouble and the Charge: Therefore She doth not (as you ſay) deprive you of any *Station in Government*: and you cannot condemn Her for being Careful, for you your ſelf would do the ſame; for if you were to Entertain any one at your Houſe, and was to Truſt them with your Treaſure, would you not queſtion him whether he would be True and Honeſt, and if he ſhould not ſatisfie you, would you think him a fit Perſon to be Truſted? And why ſhould not the Church have the ſame Power to queſtion them that comes into Her Government? Is not the Peace of a Kingdom of greater Conſequence than that of a Private Family? And Therefore do not Complain ſo much againſt Her, for God hath given Her Power, and (thro Him) She will be ſo Wiſe as to keep it: For hath not God Re-eſtabliſh'd Her by a Miracle? Can any deny, but that it was an Extraordinary Providence to Reſtore my late Soveraign to His Crown and Dignities, without Spilling of Blood; and do you think that we are ſo Ungrateful as to forget ſuch Wonderful Deliverances? No, no, it is our Reſolution to Truſt God with all things, and therefore we are not to be Wheadled out of our Senſes by *Quakers* or *Ranters*, or any other: You talk of *Gods Will*, *Faith*, *Conſcience*, *Religion*, *Chriſtianity*, *Principles of Love*, *the Evidence of Truth*, *with its Light*, *which ſilenc'd the Oracles of the Heathens*: But what ſignifies theſe Good Words when it is to Bad Purpoſes? And as for the *Power of the deſpiſed Croſs*, I don't allow that you ſhould meddle with that; for it was not the Wooden Croſs that Chriſt Exhorted His Diſciples to bear, for He could not carry that Himſelf, but it was to bear ſuch Evil Spirits as you with Patience, that Deſpiſes Him, and counts Wholeſome Counſel Madneſs, and imputes the Power of God to the Devil, and to call His Bleſſed Spouſe, *The Whore of Babylon*, and His Saints *Anti-chriſtians*: And when Chriſt ſays, *Uſe all Things as if you uſed them not*, you contradict it, and make as if the Creature was Damn'd if they go in Gay Cloathing, when (God knows) you are Prouder in your Plain Dreſs than ſome are in their Silks and Satins. O! ye Hippocritical Devils, *That ſtrain at a Knat, and ſwallow a Camel.* You know Chriſt hath commanded his Diſciples to Baptize as well as well as Teach; and He left His *Bleſſed Sacrament to be Adminiſtred in Remembrance of His Death*; but how preſumptuouſly do you diſdain both? Therefore I cannot count you Real Chriſtians as long as you do ſo; but that you are deluded by *Lucifer*, for you ſhow his Pride to the World; and you think none walks by the Spirit but you, and I believe he was of

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the same Nature; therefore the Heavens could not contain him: and where will you be hurried when God is Angry? I pity your condition: I desire you to beg of God to give you Humility and Repentance, that you may Mend for the time to come. For the Church of *England* doth not delight in the Destruction of Her Enemies; but desires that all might be Convinc'd and Converted, that they might be Happy, which bespeaks Her to be a True Church; for Christs Church must have His Nature, or else she cannot be His: You say, *Christ Settled not his Religion in Worldly Empires*: Pray where was it then? Or what did He come from Heaven for? Was it not to Save His Church that was almost lost, and to Plant His Religion in the World, and to restore Man to that Felicity he had lost, and to Reveal such Secrets that had been hid from the Beginning of the World, and to Adopt us to cry *Abba Father*? So I find it was Christs Intentions that God should be all in all. And when *Christ* departed this World, He did not leave His *Church* Destitute, but sent his Holy Spirit to Subdue her Enemies, by whose Power Kingdoms were *Converted*; and for the Building of his *Church*, he chose plain and honest Men, that had so much of the Innocency of the Dove, that they wanted a little of the Subtleness of the Serpent; or else *Christ* would never have Exhorted them, *That they should be as Wise as Serpents, and as Innocent as Doves.* But I find you have more of the Subtleness of the Serpent, than the Innocency of the Dove: Therefore you are not Qualified for a Disciple: You speak of St. *John's* Love, and *Christs Obedience to his Fathers Will*; but what signifies that to you, when you are fill'd full of Anger and Mischief, and are Disobedient and Rebellious. Indeed I have been told, *That you were Subtle Dissemblers*, but I would not believe it; but when I came to speak to your *Great Dons*, I found *I* was Deceiv'd! Tho *I* do not doubt but there are Thousands of *Innocent Souls*; but it is not You, Mr. *Penn*. *I* am told, *You are at* Bristol, *very Busie about Parliament Members*! But if they be *such as you*, *to Abrogate the Laws*, they shall not Prosper, for Gods Hand is against you. *I know the Devil will Rise in you*, but *I* value him not, for Gods Power is above you all, and you must submit to it. You told me, *You were a Father*; but what did you beget, Evil Spirits? You think to Deceive, but *I* hope your Deceit is at an end, *for the People begins to see your Cloven Foot*; therefore *I* would Advise you to go to *Pennsilvania*, *for they are in a Distracted Condition for want of you*; for indeed it was very unkind for you to Entice them *out of their own Countrey*, and to leave them Destitute. O! *I would not be in your Condition for a Kingdom.*

F I N I S.